DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 121 397 JC 760 241

AUTHOR Hoffman, Allan M.
TITLE Case Study: Academic Freedom.
PUB DATE 76
NOTE 12p.

EDRS PRICE MF-$0.83 HC-$1.67 Plus Postage
DESCRIPTORS *Academic Freedom; *Administrator Responsibility; Art Expression; Case Studies; Censorship; Community Colleges; *Creative Expression; *Junior Colleges; *Teacher Responsibility

ABSTRACT

This paper presents a case study of a confrontation between an art instructor and college officials at a hypothetical community college on the issue of academic freedom. It highlights the conflicting interests of the instructor and the college and emphasizes the instructor's obligation not to cause embarrassment to his college and his peers. It also emphasizes the need for fully developed administrative policies and procedures to deal with the display of creative materials. (DC)

****
* Documents acquired by ERIC include many informal unpublished *
* materials not available from other sources. ERIC makes every effort *
* to obtain the best copy available. Nevertheless, items of marginal *
* reproducibility are often encountered and this affects the quality *
* of the microfiche and hardcopy reproductions ERIC makes available *
* via the ERIC Document Reproduction Service (EDRS). EDRS is not *
* responsible for the quality of the original document. Reproductions *
* supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made from the original. *
****

ED121397

U S DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF
EDUCATION

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN REPRODUCED EXACTLY AS RECEIVED FROM THE PERSON OR ORGANIZATION ORIGINATING IT. POINTS OF VIEW OR OPINIONS STATED DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT OFFICIAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION POSITION OR POLICY

CASE STUDY: ACADEMIC FREEDOM

Allan M. Hoffman

New York City

1976

JC 760 241

© Allen Michael Hoffman

all rights reserved

PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS COPYRIGHTED MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

Allen Michael Hoffman

TO ERIC AND ORGANIZATIONS OPERATING UNDER AGREEMENTS WITH THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION. FURTHER REPRODUCTION OUTSIDE THE ERIC SYSTEM REQUIRES PERMISSION OF THE COPYRIGHT OWNER.

Case Study

The Setting

Rural County Community College is a comprehensive community college located in a rural community of approximately 40,000 people. It is an open door college and thus admits all applicants who have graduated from high school or who are eighteen years of age or older who can benefit from the experience. Enrollment in Rural County Community is limited only by its physical capacity. Based on Fall 1973 enrollment statistics, Rural County has 1,500 full and part-time students.

The college serves a clientele that ranges from those 18 years of age who are in need of an open door to students of all ages who perhaps are academically equipped to attend selective institutions but may lack the necessary funds. Also the college serves as a "shopping cart" for many of the executives of the local glass industry or members of the community who want to take courses for their own cultural enrichment.

The Problem

Rural County Community College has a long established practice that allows members of the faculty to display their works in various buildings of the campus. The only regulation that the college has, as stated in the faculty handbook, is:

> No member of the college administrative, instructional or support staff shall display any photographs, paintings, sculpture, written essays, poems, art, or other products of creative endeavors without the express written consent of the proper administrative

officers who shall give such consent after examining such materials.

Upon permission to display such work, a list of titles and other descriptive information shall be forwarded to the proper administrative officer within a reasonable time period.

Development

Professor Alexander Ratliff is a well-renowned, assistant professor in the art department of Kunsi County Community College. He was asked by his superior, Robert Sophisticy, Academic Dean, if he would like to exhibit some of his paintings on the walls of a specific part of various rooms for such purposes in the student union. The student union is a college owned building that serves as a place where students have various social functions, meet informally to socialize, or attend live classes. Also, the student union is utilized by members of the local community for various types of cultural or social programs. Professor Ratliff was quite excited about displaying his pictures in such an place and thus naturally consented to do so.

Dean Sophisticy then gave Ratliff the proper authorization to put his pictures up that is required by college regulations. The next day Ratliff began hanging his pictures in the student union and furnished a copy of the titles with a description of his paintings to the desk as was the customary practice.

Most of his paintings proved to be controversial. Several of his paintings were nudes, male or female, displaying the genitalia in what the dean believed to be "clinical detail." One painting bore the title, "I'm only 13 and already my mother's lovers want me." Another painting

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [